

III. Remarks

Responsive to the outstanding Examiner's Action, the applicant has carefully studied the Examiner's comments. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following detailed discussion.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 12-20 are rejected. Claims 6-11 are objected to. Claim 9 is canceled. Claims 1, 10 and 14 have been amended. A listing of the pending claims, along with a status indicator of each claim, appears above.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Specifically, there were two element (d) in the originally filed claim 1. The second element (d) has been amended to element (e) in the above amended claim 1.

Claim 10 was amended to correct the claim dependency of the claim.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 and 12-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muramoto in view of Paisley.

Amended independent claim 1 now requires that the second piston has at least a partial complementary shape to the first piston for selectively receiving at least a portion of the first piston. Neither Muramoto or Paisley, individually or in combination, suggest implicitly or explicitly, at least this element of amended claim 1. Thus, amended claim 1 is not obvious in view of either reference.

In light of the above discussion, claim 1 of the present invention is patentable. Furthermore, claims 2-8 and 10-13 each depend on claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and contain all of the limitations thereof. Therefore, because claim 1 is patentable and claims 2-8 and 10-13 depend on claim 1, claims 2-8 and 10-13 are patentable over the cited references.

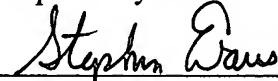
Independent claim 14 has been amended to now require that the parking brake piston has at least a partial complementary shape to the service brake piston for selectively receiving at least a portion of the service brake piston. Neither Muramoto or Paisley, individually or in combination, suggest implicitly or explicitly, at least this element of amended claim 14. Thus, amended claim 1 is not obvious in view of either reference.

In light of the above discussion, claim 14 of the present invention is patentable. Furthermore, claims 15-20 each depend on claim 14, either directly or indirectly, and contain all of the limitations thereof. Therefore, because claim 14 is patentable and claims 15-20 depend on claim 14, claims 15-20 are patentable over the cited references.

In light of the remarks above, it is believed the claims are now in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to modify any of the language of the claims, applicant's attorney suggests a telephone interview in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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